

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, NATO, BU

SUBJECT: ECONADS: BULGARIAN BUDGET AND PLAN FOR 1976

REF: A) STATE 295520

B) NATO 6834

C) SOFIA 2717

1. IN ONLY REFERENCE TO INFLATION IN REF C, EMBASSY
POINTED OUT THAT IN CONNECTION WITH 1976 PLAN (NOT
BUDGET, AS STATED REF A), PERCENTAGE INCREASE FOR
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WAS GIVEN IN TERMS OF "COMPARABLE
PRICES", WHILE PERCENTAGE INCREASE FOR RETAIL COMMODITY
CIRCULATION WAS IN TERMS OF "CURRENT PRICES". IF ALL
PRICES WERE ASSUMED AS STABLE, THERE WOULD BE NO REASON
FOR THE DISTINCTION TO BE DRAWN. IT IS QUITE UNLIKELY
THAT WE WILL RECEIVE MUCH FROM GOB IN THE WAY OF
EXPLANATION FOR THIS TERMINOLOGY, THOUGH OF COURSE WE
WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING
OF WHAT STANDS BEHIND ITS USE.

2. CONCRETE EVIDENCE ON DOMESTIC INFLATION IN BULGARIA
IS HARD TO COME BY. WE OURSELVES ARE NOT ABLE TO
CONDUCT "MARKET BASKET" SAMPLING. GOB MAINTAINS
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OF COURSE THERE IS NO INFLATION. DIPLOMATIC

COLLEAGUES, BOTH FROM WESTERN AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES,
DISPUTE THAT POSITION AND OCCASIONALLY A BULGARIAN WILL
MAKE A CHANCE REMARK ON HIGHER PRICES. IT IS CLEAR
THAT FOR CERTAIN STAPLES GOB HAS MAINTAINED PRICES,
BUT BEYOND THAT IT BECOMES QUESTIONABLE WHAT IS ACTUAL
POLICY AND PRACTICE.

HERZ

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